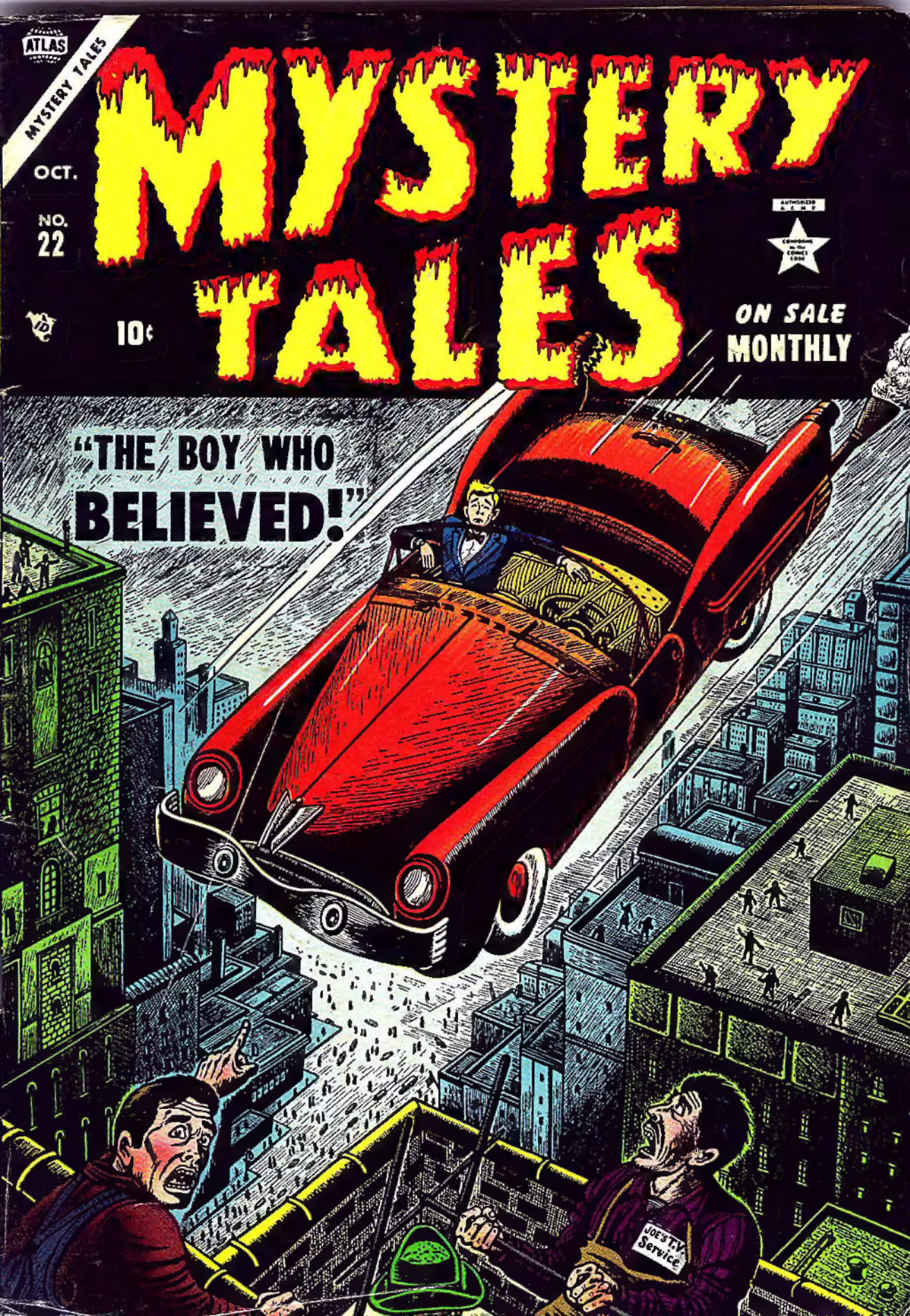

ATLAS
MYSTERY TALES
OCT.
NO. 22
10¢
MYSTERY TALES
ON SALE MONTHLY
"THE BOY WHO BELIEVED!"
JOE'S T.V. Service

LOOK AT
SKINNY!
I wouldn't be seen with her!
LATER
AND SHE USED TO BE SO SKINNY
AM I PROUD OF THE WAY THE BOYS LOOK AT YOU!
WOW!
WHAT A GIRL!

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDER-WEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

Now at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

GAIN MORE WEIGHT
IN 10 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an **extra pound a day! Or your money back!** Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're **underweight*** . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can **put on up to a pound a day** of **attractive weight** without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with MORE-WATE. MORE-WATE contains no dangerous drugs . . . you **eat it like candy!** Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain **4-way** MORE-WATE tablets . . . a full 10 days' supply . . . for just $1.00 or a 30 day supply for only $2.98, plus a 10 day supply free, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try MORE-WATE for TEN DAYS . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and **weight to gain!** Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! **Gain more weight!**

10-DAY SUPPLY ONLY $1.

The 4-way MORE-WATE tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! MORE-WATE is a **delicious,** full strength, **4-way** tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for **gaining weight** known to medical science. MORE-WATE is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's delicious, **pleasant-tasting tablet!** It contains vitamin **B-12** . . . the **amazing red vitamin doctors** give many **underweight patients in hospitals** . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated 'malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into **well rounded flesh** instead of being wasted. **That's the secret of putting on weight.** Now you can help your food to **add new pounds** to your **arms, chest, hips, thighs,** and **legs.** Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! **You must achieve the figure you want . . .** or **don't pay anything.** Act now!

Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

SENSATIONAL 10-DAY TEST!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing MORE-WATE tablet plan for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have gained weight and look better you pay nothing!

MAIL THIS NO RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!

MORE-WATE CO., Dept. 303
318 Market Street, Newark, N. J.
Just mail us your name and address, and $1.00 cash, check or money order. You will receive a 10 day supply of MORE-WATE tablets and plan, postage prepaid.

☐ Send me 30 day supply plus an extra 10 day supply (that's a 40 day supply) for $2.98. I understand that if I am not delighted with MORE-WATE tablets and plan, I can return the 30 day supply in 10 days for full purchase price refund, and keep the 10 day supply without charge.

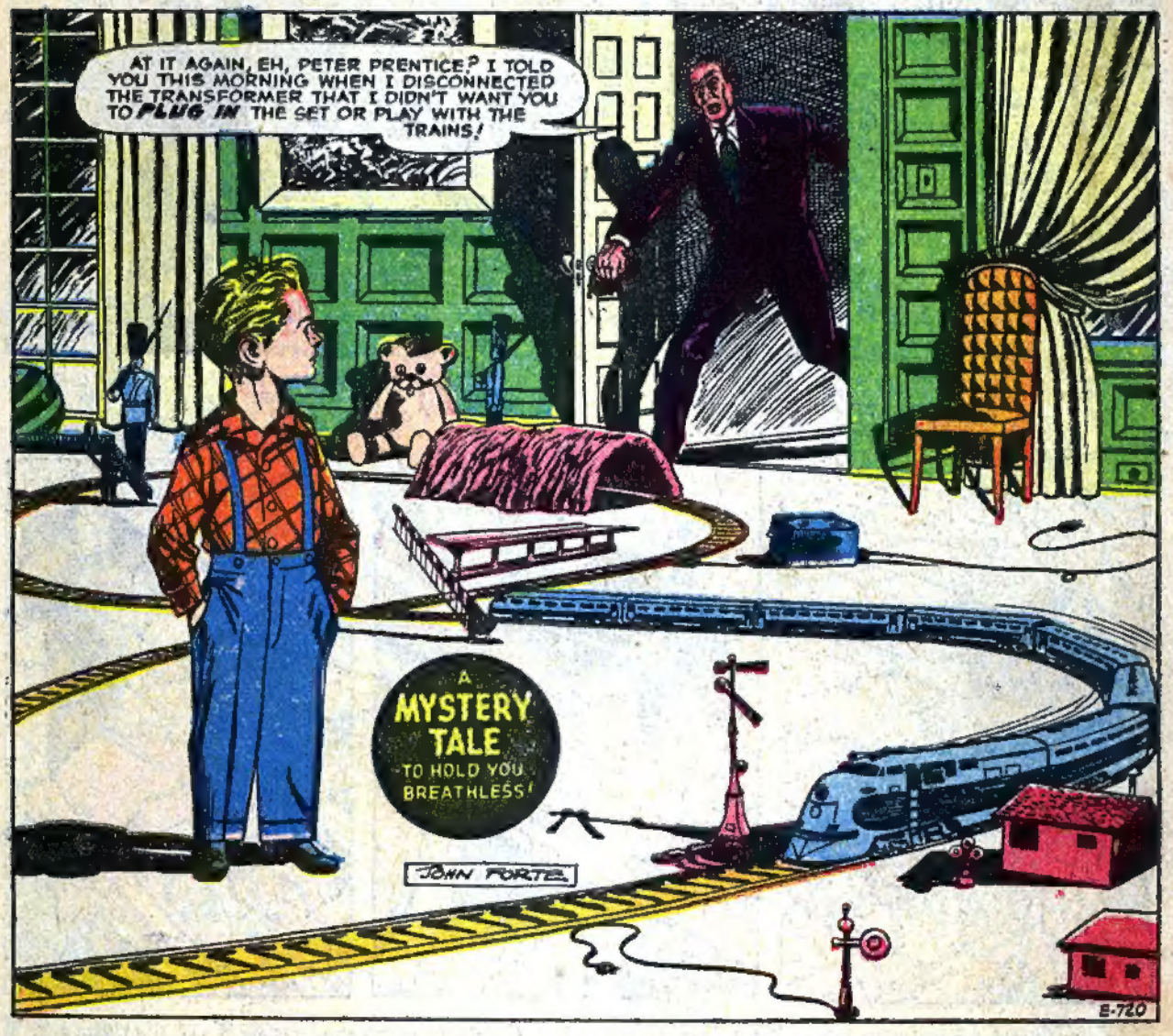
NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

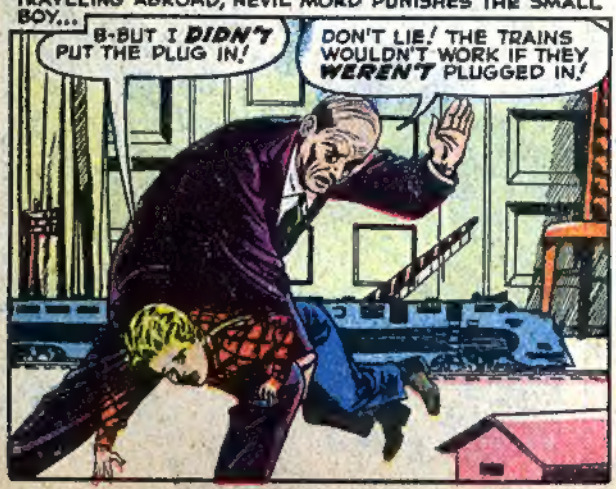
SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

MYSTERY TALES is published monthly by 20th Century Comic Corp. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 655 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK N.Y. ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK, N. Y. UNDER THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879. Additional entry at Canton, Ohio. Copyright 1954 by 20th Century Comic Corp., 655 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. Volume 1, No. 22 October 1954 issue. Arthur Marchand, Circulation Director. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Monroe Froehlich, Jr., Business Manager. Printed in the U.S.A.

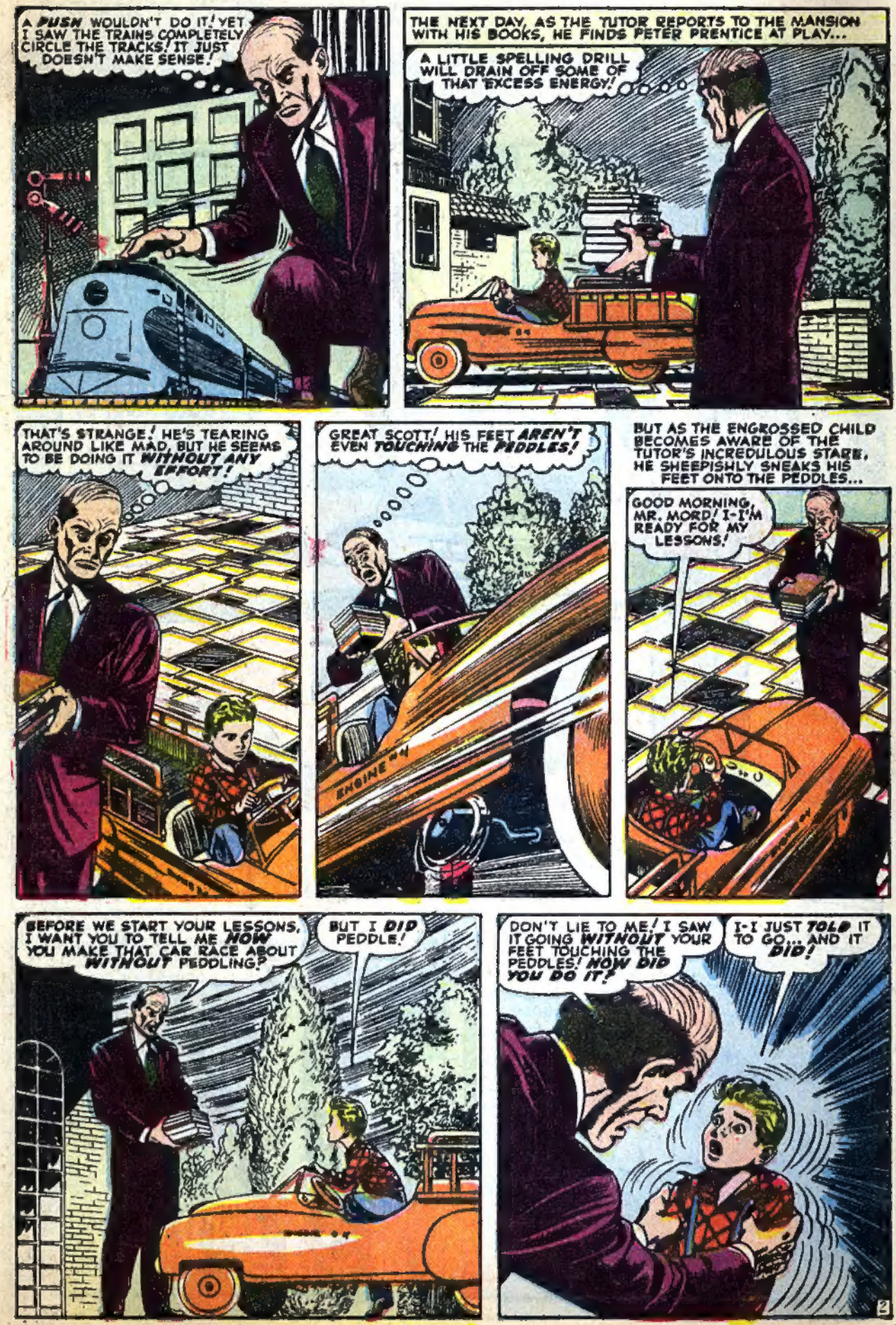
THE BOY WHO BELIEVED


AT IT AGAIN, EH, PETER PRENTICE? I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING WHEN I DISCONNECTED THE TRANSFORMER THAT I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO PLUG IN THE SET OR PLAY WITH THE TRAINS!
A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
JOHN FORTE
E-720

WITH ALL THE MALICIOUS AUTHORITY OF A TUTOR WELL AWARE THAT THE CHILD'S WEALTHY PARENTS ARE TRAVELING ABROAD, NEVIL MORD PUNISHES THE SMALL BOY...



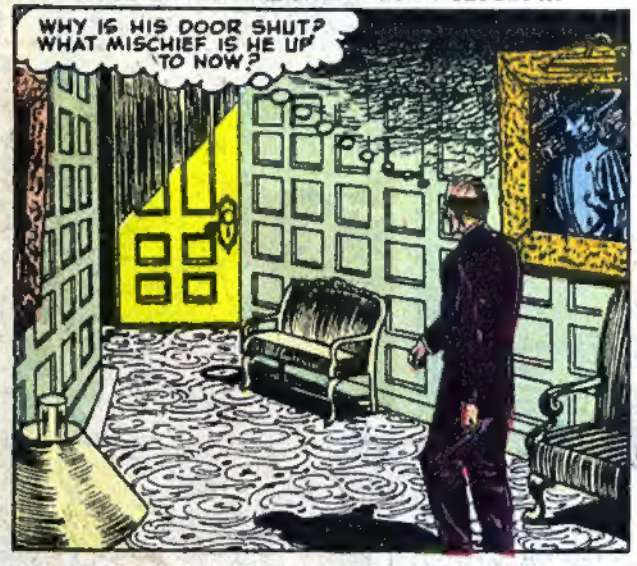
BUT AS THE BOY SOBBINGLY LEAVES THE ROOM, THE TUTOR GAPES BEWILDEREDLY AT THE WALL SOCKET...


A PUSH WOULDN'T DO IT! YET I SAW THE TRAINS COMPLETELY CIRCLE THE TRACKS! IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
THE NEXT DAY, AS THE TUTOR REPORTS TO THE MANSION WITH HIS BOOKS, HE FINDS PETER PRENTICE AT PLAY...
A LITTLE SPELLING DRILL WILL DRAIN OFF SOME OF THAT EXCESS ENERGY!
THAT'S STRANGE! HE'S TEARING AROUND LIKE MAD, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE DOING IT WITHOUT ANY EFFORT!
GREAT SCOTT! HIS FEET AREN'T EVEN TOUCHING THE PEDDLES!
ENGINE 44
BUT AS THE ENGROSSED CHILD BECOMES AWARE OF THE TUTOR'S INCREDULOUS STARE, HE SHEEPISHLY SNEAKS HIS FEET ONTO THE PEDDLES...
GOOD MORNING, MR. MORD! I-I'M READY FOR MY LESSONS!
BEFORE WE START YOUR LESSONS, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME HOW YOU MAKE THAT CAR RACE ABOUT WITHOUT PEDDLING?
BUT I DID PEDDLE!
DON'T LIE TO ME! I SAW IT GOING WITHOUT YOUR FEET TOUCHING THE PEDDLES! NOW DID YOU DO IT?
I-I JUST TOLD IT TO GO... AND IT DID!
2

YOU TOLD IT TO GO? WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS? HOW CAN YOU TELL A HEAP OF METAL TO DO ANYTHING?
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT IT TO... AND YOU BELIEVE WHEN YOU ASK IT TO, MAYBE IT WILL! I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT... BUT IT DID GO FOR ME!

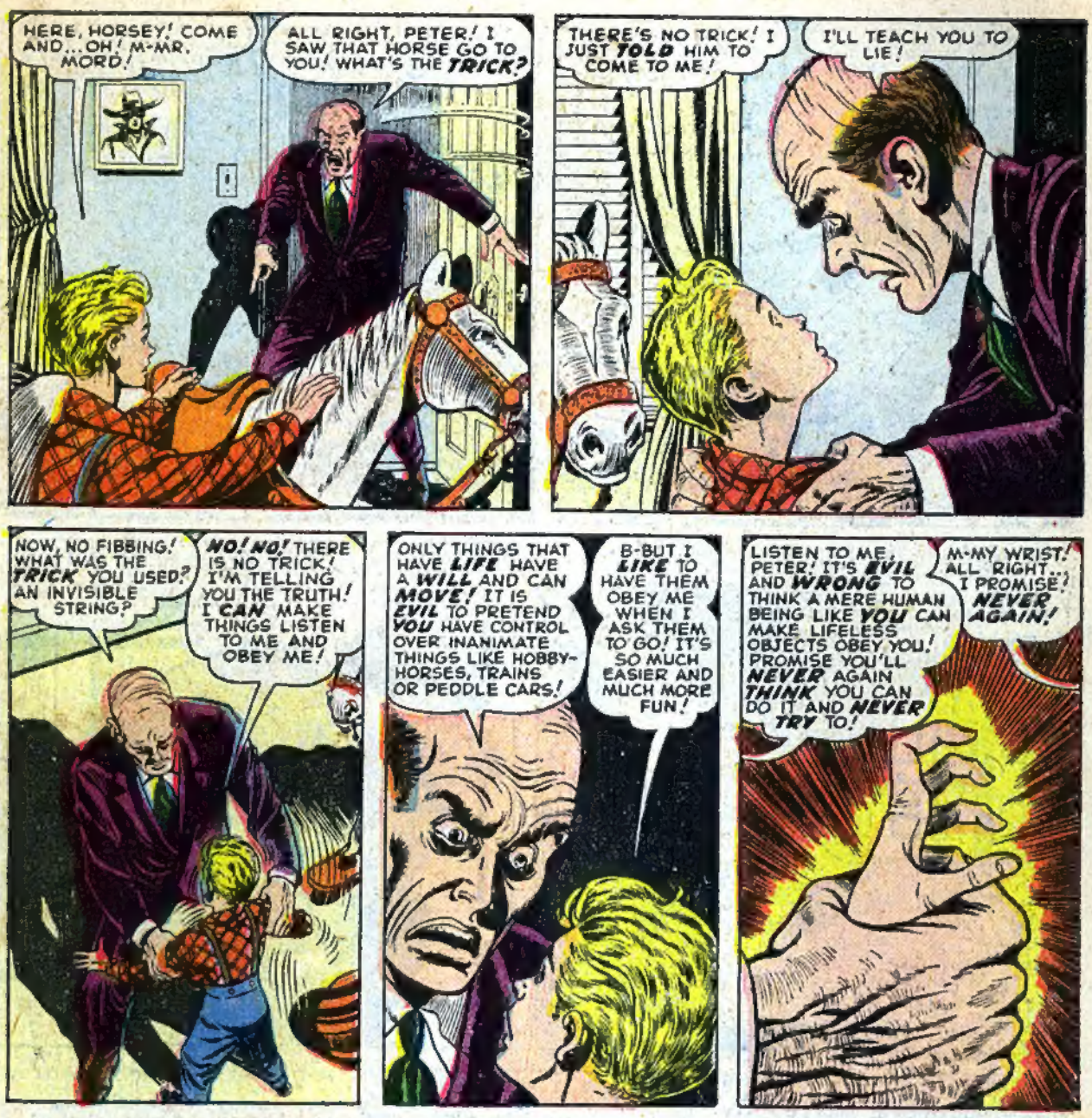
GO INSIDE AND STAY THERE! YOU'LL NOT HAVE A THING TO EAT TILL YOU STOP LYING!
ALL RIGHT... BUT THAT'S HOW IT WENT! I JUST TOLD THE FIRE ENGINE TO GO! IT ALWAYS OBEYS ME!

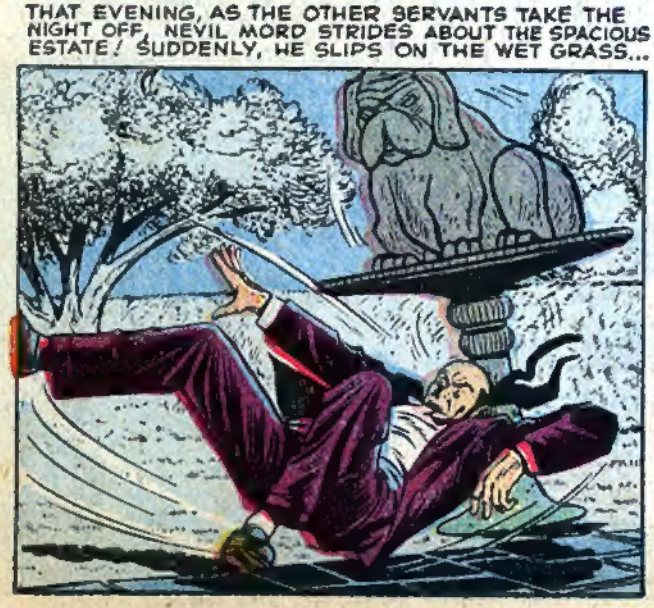
THE NEXT DAY, AS NEVIL MORD STRIDES IN, HE SEES PETER PRENTICE'S DOOR CLOSED...



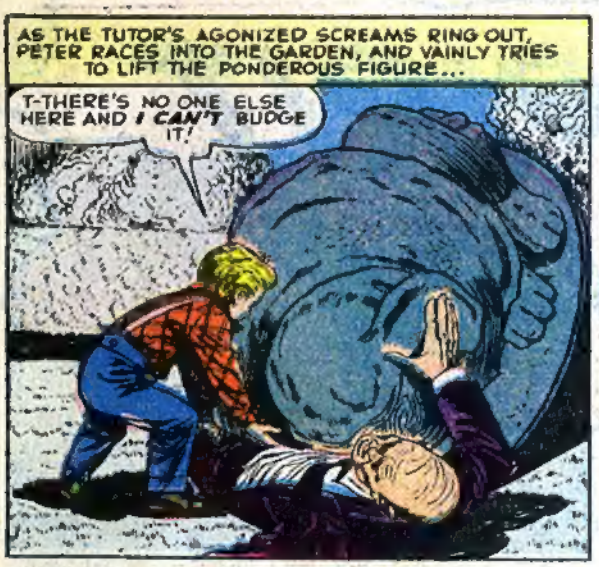
AS NEVIL MORD PUTS HIS INQUISITIVE EYE TO THE KEYHOLE, HE SEES A LARGE HOBBYHORSE START QUICKLY ACROSS THE ROOM...

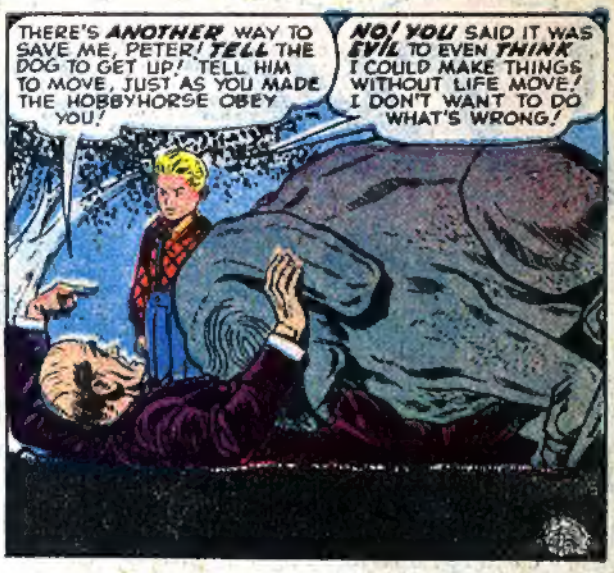
NOR IS THERE ANY STRING ATTACHED TO THE HORSE TO PULL IT ALONG, AS IT HEADS, SEEMINGLY ANIMATED BY A WILL OF ITS OWN, TOWARD PETER, WHO BECKONS IT WITH A SOFT COMMAND!

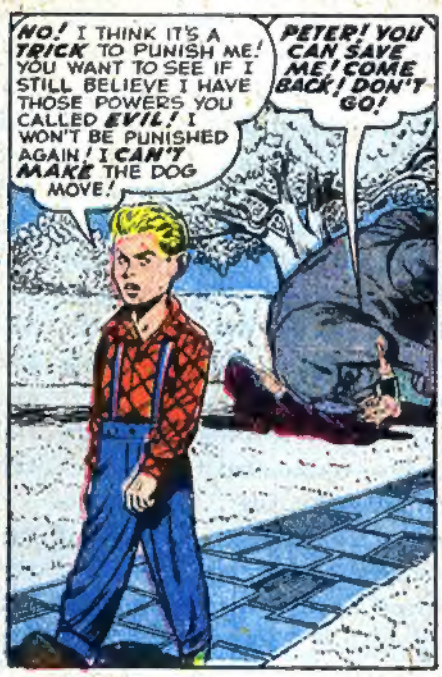

HERE, HORSEY! COME AND...OH! M-MR. MORD!
ALL RIGHT, PETER! I SAW THAT HORSE GO TO YOU! WHAT'S THE TRICK?
THERE'S NO TRICK! I JUST TOLD HIM TO COME TO ME!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO LIE!
NOW, NO FIBBING! WHAT WAS THE TRICK YOU USED? AN INVISIBLE STRING?
NO! NO! THERE IS NO TRICK! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! I CAN MAKE THINGS LISTEN TO ME AND OBEY ME!
ONLY THINGS THAT HAVE LIFE HAVE A WILL AND CAN MOVE! IT IS EVIL TO PRETEND YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER INANIMATE THINGS LIKE HOBBY-HORSES, TRAINS OR PEDDLE CARS!
B-BUT I LIKE TO HAVE THEM OBEY ME WHEN I ASK THEM TO GO! IT'S SO MUCH EASIER AND MUCH MORE FUN!
LISTEN TO ME, PETER! IT'S EVIL AND WRONG TO THINK A MERE HUMAN BEING LIKE YOU CAN MAKE LIFELESS OBJECTS OBEY YOU! PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER AGAIN THINK YOU CAN DO IT AND NEVER TRY TO!
M-MY WRIST! ALL RIGHT... I PROMISE! NEVER AGAIN!


THAT EVENING, AS THE OTHER SERVANTS TAKE THE NIGHT OFF, NEVIL MORD STRIDES ABOUT THE SPACIOUS ESTATE! SUDDENLY, HE SLIPS ON THE WET GRASS...

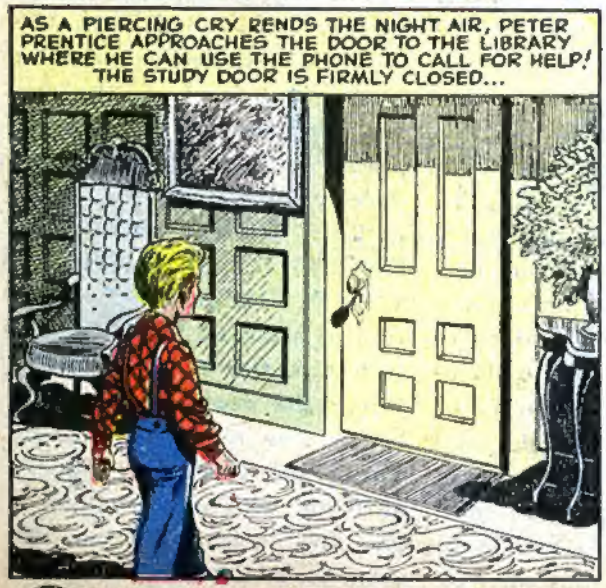
THE CHINESE PUG DOG FIGURE, ALREADY SLIGHTLY OFF BALANCE IN THE RAIN-SOFTENED GROUND, TOPPLES WITH LETHAL HEAVINESS...
OHNH!

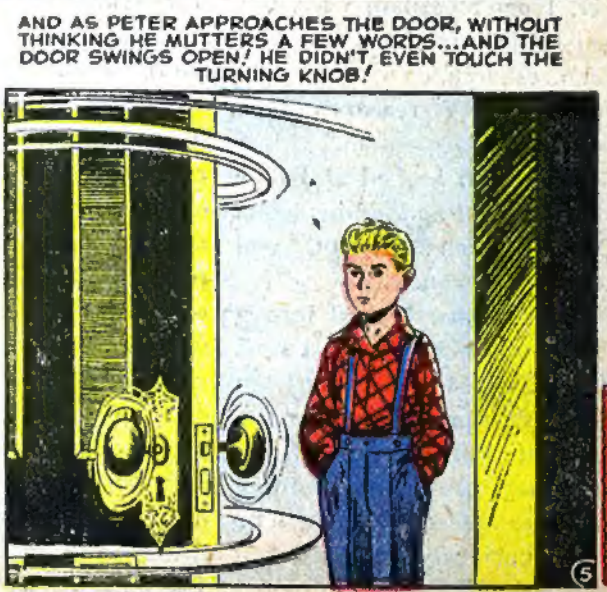

AS THE TUTOR'S AGONIZED SCREAMS RING OUT, PETER RACES INTO THE GARDEN, AND VAINLY TRIES TO LIFT THE PONDEROUS FIGURE...
T-THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE AND I CAN'T BUDGE IT!


THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO SAVE ME, PETER! TELL THE DOG TO GET UP! TELL HIM TO MOVE, JUST AS YOU MADE THE HOBBYHORSE OBEY YOU!
NO! YOU SAID IT WAS EVIL TO EVEN THINK I COULD MAKE THINGS WITHOUT LIFE MOVE! I DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT'S WRONG!


NO! I THINK IT'S A TRICK TO PUNISH ME! YOU WANT TO SEE IF I STILL BELIEVE I HAVE THOSE POWERS YOU CALLED EVIL! I WON'T BE PUNISHED AGAIN! I CAN'T MAKE THE DOG MOVE!
PETER! YOU CAN SAVE ME! COME BACK! DON'T GO!

BUT THE BOY WALKS OFF, AS THE PAIN-RACKED TUTOR FEELS THE CRUSHING WEIGHT PRESS DOWN ON HIS AGONIZED BODY...
H-HE WON'T COME BACK! I KILLED HIS BELIEF IN HIS POWERS... AND DOING THAT... I-I'VE ONLY HARMED MYSELF!


AS A PIERCING CRY RENDS THE NIGHT AIR, PETER PRENTICE APPROACHES THE DOOR TO THE LIBRARY WHERE HE CAN USE THE PHONE TO CALL FOR HELP! THE STUDY DOOR IS FIRMLY CLOSED...


AND AS PETER APPROACHES THE DOOR, WITHOUT THINKING HE MUTTERS A FEW WORDS...AND THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN! HE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH THE TURNING KNOB!
5

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

THE SPIRIT OF SIRA

DR. Carla Preser looked into her empty teacup thoughtfully. She was seated in a warm, comfortable room among her other colleagues, and she was immensely interested in the conversation that had been going on. Yet she she stared on into the cup.

"You seem rather unconvinced, Carla," Dr. Jenson remarked. "Perhaps you have never heard the strange legend before?"

"Unconvinced?" Carla replied, looking up at the grey-haired man who sat across from her. "On the contrary, I've just been thinking deeply about what you've been saying. It's such an incredible-sounding story, one that could easily be nothing BUT a story. However, I can't explain why, but this whole thing stirs me. Has much research, or for that matter, has ANY research been done on it?"

Dr. Jenson looked at Bryce Rayburn, and nodded his head. "Dr. Rayburn can tell you more than I can."

Dr. Rayburn looked into a ring of white smoke, and said, "Well, Carla, there's only been a few attempts to discover the truth of the legend. All of them have ended in nothing but more questions." Then he looked curiously at Carla, and his brow wrinkled.

"Say, there, Carla," he continued, "have you hurt your head? You've got an ugly little sore above your right eye."

Carla smiled. "Sore? Oh, goodness, didn't you ever notice this before? It's a birthmark, as far as I know. It looks rather like a bruise, sort of bluish. It's nothing, really."

"Well," Dr. Rayburn said, crushing his cigarette in the ashtray, "That's all I can tell you about it. Now it's late. Thank you for the tea . . . Dr. Jenson and I will be going now."

After the two men left, Carla Preiser recalled the conversation. "Amazing . . . Sira Geraldi . . . a woman who lived hundreds of years ago . . . cursed to live forever in others' bodies, because of a horrible crime she committed. She murdered her wealthy husband, who, just before he died, struck her, and so bestowing upon her the terrible curse, cast her out upon a sea of eternity, never to die. To think that this day, now, there could be a person living who contains the evil spirit of the woman, and knows nothing of it. The spirit of Sira casts itself into a newborn child, grows on with the child until it matures, ages, and then dies, and subsequently the spirit drifts on to another new body. It's fantastic . . . but the possibility of it being the truth is too curious to disregard."

Carla stretched in her chair, but a thumping in her head made her wince. She looked into a mirror and noticed that the mark that Dr. Rayburn had mentioned before, was bluer, fiercer-looking than it had ever been before. But she took a headache powder and was soon asleep.

The morning was a rainy one, and she rose from her bed wearily. She felt for her slippers, but could not find them, for the blinds were still partially closed, and the room was fairly dark.

"Nora . . NORA . . WHY can't you come in and open the blinds for me on time? NORA . . . come here immediately and find my slippers."

The slim maid came scurrying in, and pulled open the blinds. She smiled as she took Carla's slippers from the closet. "They were in their correct place, ma'am," she smiled sweetly.

"THE RIGHT PLACE IS UNDER MY BED, WHEN I WANT THEM . . ." Carla rubbed her head in pain again, and took the slippers gruffly. When she recalled the night before, she muttered a silent threat and flung the slippers at Nora, who was frightened, and the maid ran from the room to make sure the coffee didn't burn.

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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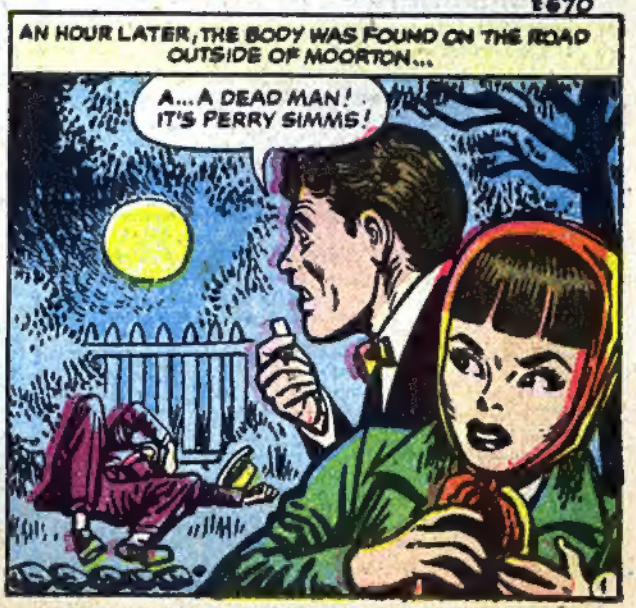
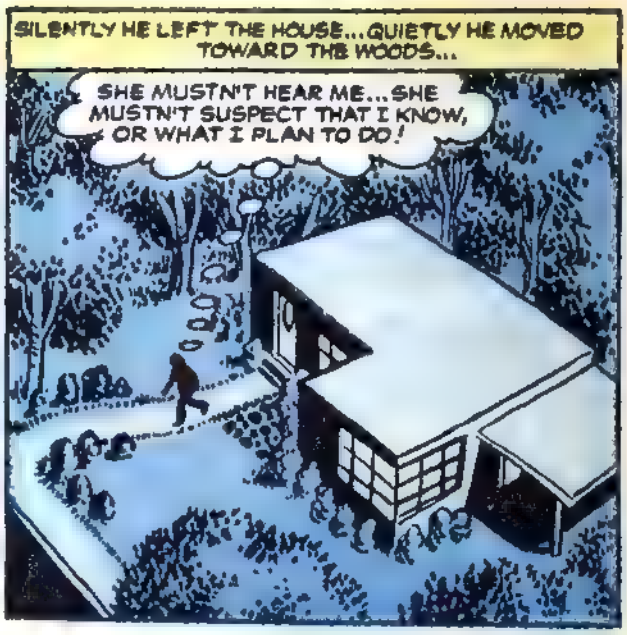
WINGS IN THE NIGHT!

A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!
A BLACK SHAPE FLEW ACROSS THE FACE OF THE MOON...WINGS RUSTLED, AND A TERRIBLE CREATURE RODE THE NIGHT, SEEKING! HE WAS AFRAID, BECAUSE HE SUSPECTED THE TRUTH...AND THE TRUTH LED TO DEATH!



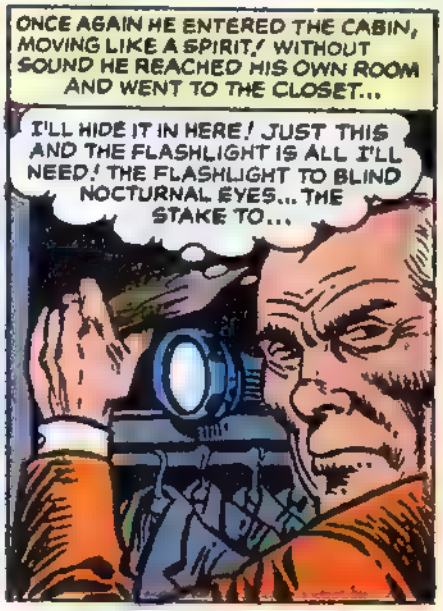
MEN CAME TO TOWN AND CARRIED THE BODY TO DOC CARNEY'S PLACE...
TWO SMALL PUNCTURES ON THE NECK! LIKE THE OTHER ONES!
THE VAMPIRE... AGAIN!
SLOWLY, CHARLIE MADE HIS WAY TO THE LITTLE CABIN THEY HAD RENTED! SPASMS SHOOK HIM...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... I JUST CAN'T!
I'VE FELT SO WEAK LATELY... DIZZY SPELLS, LOSING WEIGHT! NOW THIS!
IT WASN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE! JUST THE LAST THREE MONTHS, SINCE MONA AND I WERE MARRIED AND WE MOVED HERE... AND THE VAMPIRE BEGAN TO FLY!
HESITANTLY, HIS HAND MOVED TO THE DOORKNOB... THE DOOR THAT OPENED INTO HIS WIFE'S ROOM...
THIS WAS HER SECRET! THIS IS WHY SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ALONE AT NIGHT, TO SLEEP IN A DIFFERENT ROOM!
THE DOOR OPENED SILENTLY UNDER HIS HAND! HIS WIFE LAY ASLEEP, MOONLIGHT BATHING HER FACE, A CONTENTED SMILE UPON HER LIPS...
FOR A MOMENT, DIZZINESS OVERCAME HIM! HE SHRANK AGAINST THE DOOR IN SILENT HATRED... HATE FOR HER THAT FLOODED HIM TO THE POINT OF NAUSEA...
HOW COULD SHE DO THIS THING... HOW COULD SHE DO THIS TO ME?
2

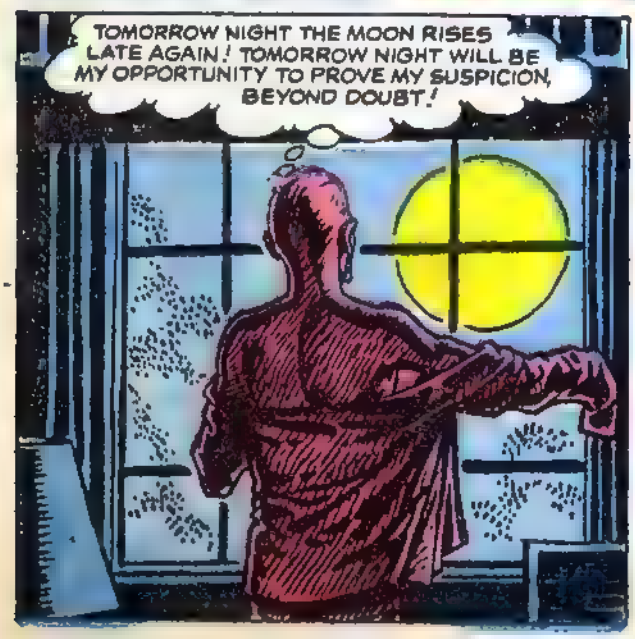
I CAN'T LOOK AT HER! I KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT I MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE PROOF! THEN I'LL DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!

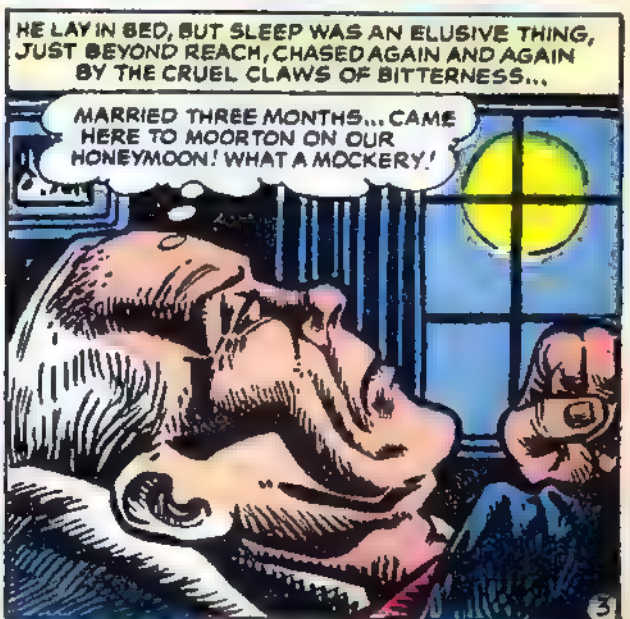

SILENTLY HE LEFT THE HOUSE... QUIETLY HE MOVED TOWARD THE WOODS...
SHE MUSTN'T HEAR ME... SHE MUSTN'T SUSPECT THAT I KNOW, OR WHAT I PLAN TO DO!

THIS WILL DO IT! IT'S STRONG... HEAVY! I'LL TRIM IT OFF, SHARPEN THE END...

WITH HIS KNIFE HE WORKED FEVERISHLY THERE IN THE DARK, FASHIONING A STRONG, SHARP STAKE...
THERE! THAT WILL DO IT! I'LL KEEP IT UNDER MY COAT UNTIL I GET TO MY ROOM IN CASE SHE AWAKENS!


ONCE AGAIN HE ENTERED THE CABIN, MOVING LIKE A SPIRIT! WITHOUT SOUND HE REACHED HIS OWN ROOM AND WENT TO THE CLOSET...
I'LL HIDE IT IN HERE! JUST THIS AND THE FLASHLIGHT IS ALL I'LL NEED! THE FLASHLIGHT TO BLIND NOCTURNAL EYES... THE STAKE TO...


TOMORROW NIGHT THE MOON RISES LATE AGAIN! TOMORROW NIGHT WILL BE MY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE MY SUSPICION, BEYOND DOUBT!


HE LAY IN BED, BUT SLEEP WAS AN ELUSIVE THING, JUST BEYOND REACH, CHASED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE CRUEL CLAWS OF BITTERNESS...
MARRIED THREE MONTHS... CAME HERE TO MOORTON ON OUR HONEYMOON! WHAT A MOCKERY!

HE SLEPT IN CAT NAPS, AND EVEN THESE WERE FILLED WITH NIGHTMARES! WHEN THE SUN ROSE, HE GOT UP, TIRED AND WORN...

I CAN'T FACE MONA TODAY! SHE'D KNOW... SHE'D SUSPECT! I'D GIVE MYSELF AWAY!

HE HEARD HIS WIFE STIRRING IN HER ROOM, AS HE TIPTOED AWAY...

ALL DAY, HE WANDERED THROUGH THE WOODS, HIS THOUGHTS AN AGONY, MOVING WITHOUT DIRECTION, UNTIL LETHARGY OVERCAME HIM AND HE RESTED...

THE HOURS ARE LIKE SNAILS... CRAWLING EVER SO SLOWLY! HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE DARKNESS COMES?

THEN THE DARK CAME FINALLY AND HE CREPT BACK TO THE CABIN...

NO LIGHTS! IS SHE THERE OR HAS SHE LEFT ALREADY?

NOT HERE! I'LL GET THE STAKE AND THE FLASHLIGHT AND COME BACK HERE TO WAIT FOR HER!

HE WENT TO HIS ROOM AND OPENED THE CLOSET DOOR...

THE STAKE'S BEEN ***MOVED!*** SHE'S BEEN HERE, SUSPICIOUS, SEARCHING, AND ***NOW*** SHE ***KNOWS!*** I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO HER ROOM! I'LL WAIT HERE... SHE'LL COME TO ***ME!***

HE LAY IN HIS BED IN THE DARKNESS, THE FLASHLIGHT IN HIS HAND, THE STAKE NEXT TO HIS BED, AND HE WAITED...

WHAT'S THAT FLUTTERING... LIKE GIANT WINGS! YES... SHE'S COMING!

A SILHOUETTE AT THE WINDOW... THEN GONE, MERGING WITH THE DARK... INSIDE...

THE SLITHERING SOUND CAME NEARER, IN THE DARKNESS! THE FEELING OF SOMETHING CLOSE...

A COLD, FETID BREATH FANNING THE FLESH OF HIS NECK...

THEN HE PRESSED THE BUTTON OF THE FLASHLIGHT...

MONA!

IT WAS HIS WIFE'S FACE, BUT SHRIEKING AS THE LIGHT BLINDED! THE WINGS BEAT, THE VAMPIRE SWOOPED TO ESCAPE, ERRATIC, BLINDED AS ALL BATS ARE BY LIGHT...

A FRENZIED SMASH AGAINST THE WALL! THE VAMPIRE FELL, BROKEN, STUNNED! HE RUSHED FORWARD AND STOOD ABOVE HER, STAKE HIGH IN BOTH HANDS...

NOW!

WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH HE PLUNGED THE STAKE DOWN! IT WAS OVER!

YOU DROVE ME TO THE BRINK OF MADNESS... BREAKING MY BODY AND MY MIND! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME... YOU CHEATED ME!

5

WINGS RUSTLED, UNFOLDING...

THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH HERE IN THIS LITTLE PLACE FOR *ONE* ...AND *YOU* TOOK IT *ALL*, AND I GREW WEAK! BUT NOW IT'S OVER... NOW THERE'S ONLY *ONE* OF US *AGAIN!*

BLACK WINGS FLAYED THE AIR! HE ROSE TO THE WINDOW, A GIGANTIC BAT-SHAPE AGAINST THE NIGHT...

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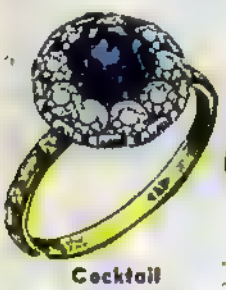

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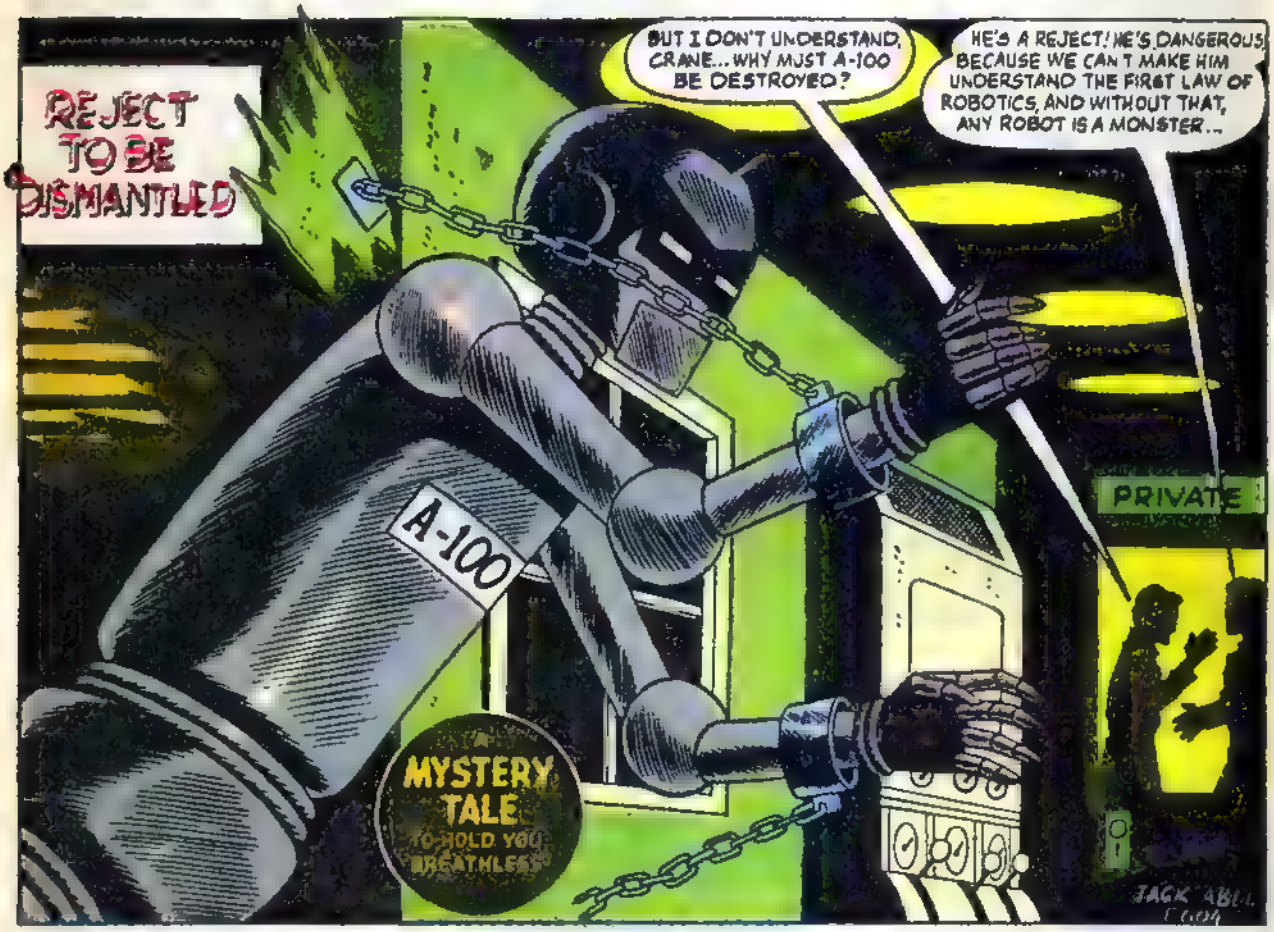
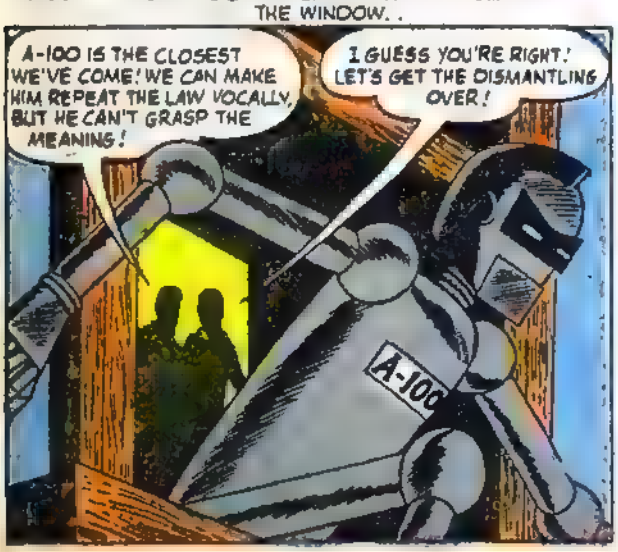
THE REJECTED ROBOT!


REJECT TO BE DISMANTLED
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, CRANE... WHY MUST A-100 BE DESTROYED?
HE'S A REJECT! HE'S DANGEROUS BECAUSE WE CAN'T MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THE FIRST LAW OF ROBOTICS, AND WITHOUT THAT, ANY ROBOT IS A MONSTER...
A-100
PRIVATE
MYSTERY TALE
TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS
JACK ABEL

AND YET, IN MANY WAYS, A-100 WAS CLEVERER THAN ANY PRECEDING MODELS THAT HAD BEEN CREATED! HE KNEW ENOUGH TO BREAK HIS CHAINS SILENTLY, AND TO LEAVE BY THE WINDOW..


A-100 IS THE CLOSEST WE'VE COME! WE CAN MAKE HIM REPEAT THE LAW VOCALLY, BUT HE CAN'T GRASP THE MEANING!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GET THE DISMANTLING OVER!
A-100

AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MEETING WAS CALLED! OFFICIALS LEFT THEIR HOMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO DISCUSS THE CATASTROPHE...
WE'VE GOT TO NOTIFY THE POLICE AT ONCE AND IF NECESSARY EVEN THE STATE GUARD!
NO! THAT WOULD START A PANIC!
IF WORD GOT AROUND, THEY'D CLOSE US DOWN! WE'D BE RUINED!
BUT HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED! MAYBE WE COULD PUT A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ON THE JOB... TO TRACK A-100 DOWN!
GEORGE HASTINGS, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WAS SENT FOR IMMEDIATELY! HIS REPUTATION FOR HANDLING CASES DISCREETLY MADE HIM ACCEPTABLE TO THE OFFICIALS...
ARE YOU SURE HE'S DANGEROUS? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
GOOD HEAVENS, MAN! THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY ROBOT! HIS BRAIN IS ONE OF THE FINEST THINKING MACHINES DEVISED BY MAN!
HE'S A REJECT AND WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DESTROYED! YOU SEE, ANY ROBOT WHO CAN'T BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE FIRST LAW OF ROBOTICS, DOESN'T KNOW THAT IT'S WRONG TO KILL!
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE LAW?
THIS IS ONE OF OUR TESTS... A DUMMY THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE A MAN! IT'S THE FINAL TEST TO SEE WHAT A ROBOT WILL DO WHEN HE'S PROVOKED!
IF HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE LAW, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTACK THIS MAN-LIKE DUMMY NO MATTER HOW ANGRY HE WAS!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN! BUT ISN'T IT POSSIBLE HE SENSED THE DUMMY WASN'T A REAL MAN? MAYBE HE'S MORE INTELLIGENT THAN YOU THOUGHT!
PLEASE, MR HASTINGS... THIS IS NO TIME FOR WILD THEORIES! THE ROBOT IS LOOSE.. HE'S LIKE A CHILD RUNNING AROUND WITH A LOADED GUN! A POTENTIAL MURDERER!
YOU'VE GOT TO TRACK HIM DOWN! IF THE NEWS GETS OUT, THEY'LL CLOSE THE PLANT DOWN, AND FIVE YEARS OF WORK WILL BE RUINED!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET HIM FOR YOU!
2

GEORGE HASTINGS FOLLOWED THE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SOFT EARTH, THAT LED DIRECTLY TO A GAPING HOLE IN THE FENCE...

IT WOULD TAKE THE STRENGTH OF AN ELEPHANT TO RIP OUT A HOLE LIKE THAT!

LUCKILY, HASTINGS WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF DAMAGE! A FARMER HAD SEEN A-100 PASS BY...

I SAW IT FROM THE HOUSE! LUCKY NO ONE WAS ON THE TRACTOR AT THE TIME! HE WENT INTO THOSE WOODS!

SEVERAL TIMES HE FOUND THE TRAIL, AND LOST IT AGAIN! ALONG THE WAY HE MET PEOPLE WHO HAD SEEN THE ROBOT FROM A DISTANCE...

YES! I SAW HIM! I WAS UP IN A TREE AND HE WAS HEADING DOWN NEAR THE QUARRY AREA!

HE CAN'T BE VERY FAR FROM HERE! I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING...AND WHAT HIS MECHANICAL BRAIN IS PLANNING!

THERE HE GOES! HIS PRINTS ARE DEEPER, AS IF HE WERE CARRYING SOMETHING! THEY'RE HEADING TOWARD THAT GIANT ROCK!

HOLY SMOKE! SO ***THAT'S*** WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE! I THINK HE SEES ME!

HE'S JUST STANDING THERE, LOOKING AT ME! HE'S NOT MAKING ANY MOVE TO ATTACK OR RUN! WHAT DO I DO NOW?

A-100

5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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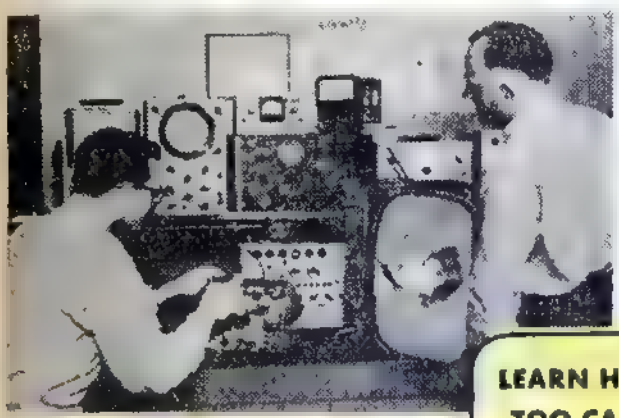
Get the facts on NATIONAL SCHOOLS' famous Shop-Method Home Training!



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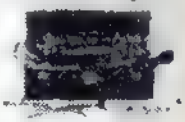

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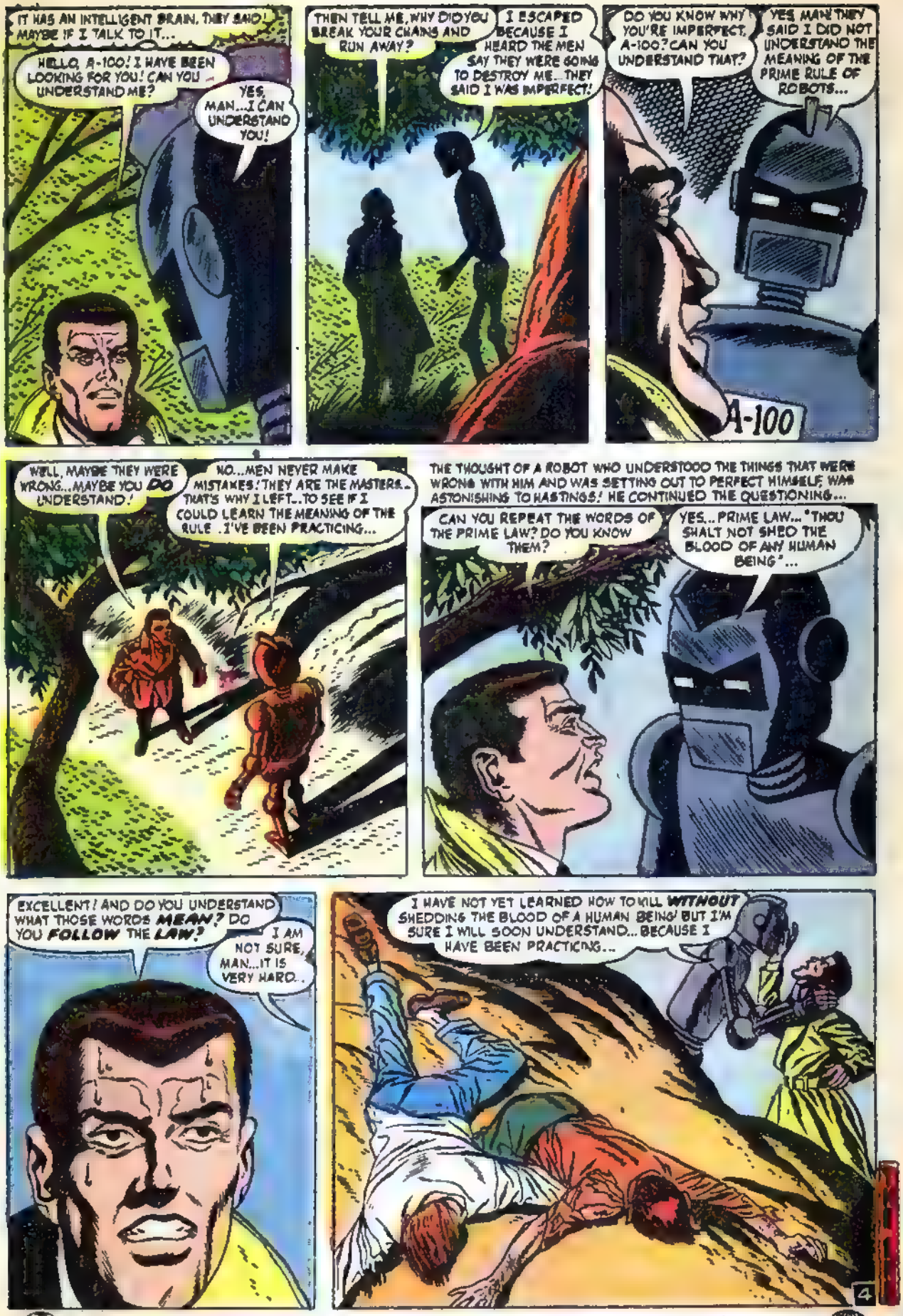
IT HAS AN INTELLIGENT BRAIN, THEY SAID! MAYBE IF I TALK TO IT...
HELLO, A-100! I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! CAN YOU ... UNDERSTAND ME?
YES, MAN...I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU!
THEN TELL ME, WHY DID YOU BREAK YOUR CHAINS AND RUN AWAY?
I ESCAPED BECAUSE I HEARD THE MEN SAY THEY WERE GOING TO DESTROY ME... THEY SAID I WAS IMPERFECT!
DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE IMPERFECT, A-100? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
YES, MAN! THEY SAID I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE PRIME RULE OF ROBOTS...
A-100
WELL, MAYBE THEY WERE WRONG...MAYBE YOU DO UNDERSTAND!
NO...MEN NEVER MAKE MISTAKES! THEY ARE THE MASTERS... THAT'S WHY I LEFT...TO SEE IF I COULD LEARN THE MEANING OF THE RULE. I'VE BEEN PRACTICING...
THE THOUGHT OF A ROBOT WHO UNDERSTOOD THE THINGS THAT WERE WRONG WITH HIM AND WAS SETTING OUT TO PERFECT HIMSELF, WAS ASTONISHING TO HASTINGS! HE CONTINUED THE QUESTIONING...
CAN YOU REPEAT THE WORDS OF THE PRIME LAW? DO YOU KNOW THEM?
YES... PRIME LAW... "THOU SHALT NOT SHED THE BLOOD OF ANY HUMAN BEING"...
EXCELLENT! AND DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN? DO YOU FOLLOW THE LAW?
I AM NOT SURE, MAN...IT IS VERY HARD..
I HAVE NOT YET LEARNED HOW TO KILL WITHOUT SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF A HUMAN BEING! BUT I'M SURE I WILL SOON UNDERSTAND... BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING...
4

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THE TINY COFFIN!

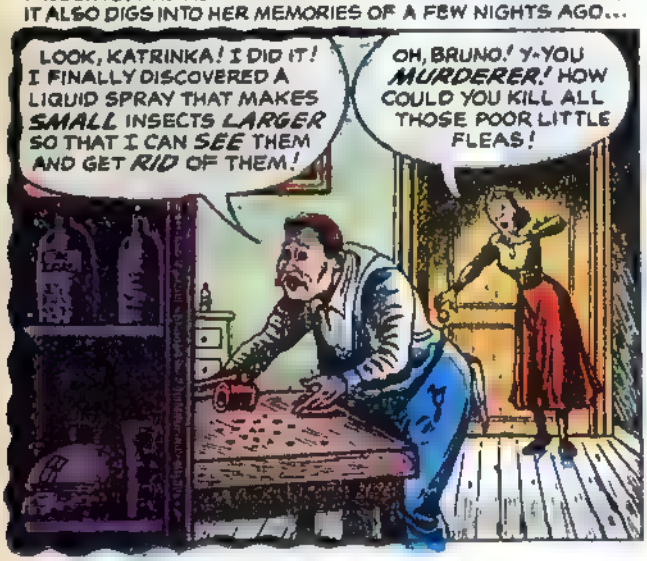
...AND IT'S ONLY THREE INCHES LONG!
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT CRAZY KATRINKA HAS IN THE CASKET!
TOMBSTONES LINE THE ROAD WINDING THRU THE OLD CEMETERY, AND THEIR ALABASTER FACES STARE AT THE STRANGE FUNERAL PROCESSION SNAKING THRU THE CONCRETE FOREST OF THE DEAD! LAUGHTER RISES FROM THE CROWD, AND SUFFOCATES THE FEEBLE SOBS OF THE GRIEF-BENT WOMAN LEADING THE PROCESSION AS SHE TENDERLY CARRIES IN HER WORK-GNARLED HAND A TINY COFFIN...
R I P
E-678

WE ONLY WANT TO SEE WHOM WE SHOULD GRIEVE FOR, KATRINKA!
IT'S ONE OF KATRINKA'S FRIENDS! YOU KNOW HOW FOND SHE IS OF BUGS AND INSECTS!

HA! KATRINKA IS BURYING A COCKROACH!
IT'S THE CRAZIEST THING SHE'S EVER DONE! AND HER HUSBAND BRUNO WILL BEAT HER HARDER THAN EVER WHEN HE FINDS OUT ABOUT IT!

KATRINKA DROPS TO HER KNEES AT THE FAMILY PLOT! GENTLY SHE PLACES THE TINY CASKET ON THE GROUND AND WITH A SPOON SHE BEGINS TO DIG A TINY GRAVE...

BUT SORROW AND GRIEF ARE NOT REINS WHICH CAN HARNESS THOUGHTS! AND AS KATRINKA'S SPOON DIGS INTO THE EARTH, IT ALSO DIGS INTO HER MEMORIES OF A FEW NIGHTS AGO...


LOOK, KATRINKA! I DID IT! I FINALLY DISCOVERED A LIQUID SPRAY THAT MAKES SMALL INSECTS LARGER SO THAT I CAN SEE THEM AND GET RID OF THEM!
OH, BRUNO! Y-YOU MURDERER! HOW COULD YOU KILL ALL THOSE POOR LITTLE FLEAS!

I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES THAT IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KILL THEM! I'M A BUG EXTERMINATOR! AND I'VE TOLD YOU TO STOP BLUBBERING OVER DEAD INSECTS AND BUGS!

NOW GET OUT! I'M WORKING ON ANOTHER SOLUTION THAT WILL MAKE LARGE BUGS AND INSECTS SMALLER SO I CAN KILL THEM EASIER! AND WITH THAT, I'LL BE THE BEST EXTERMINATOR IN THE BUSINESS!
THE BEST MURDERER... THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL BE!

AND KATRINKA REMEMBERS HOW SHE WATCHED BRUNO'S EXPERIMENT THRU THE KEYHOLE...

KATRINKA SAW THE BAT SHRINK TO THE SIZE OF AN ANT AND SHE BLINDED HER VISION WITH HER HANDS AS BRUNO CRUSHED IT BENEATH HIS FOOT...

KATRINKA RECALLS HOW HAPPY HER HUSBAND WAS OVER HIS TWO NEW DISCOVERIES! BUT HE NEVER STOPPED EXPERIMENTING...

BRUNO PICKED A COCKROACH AND A SPIDER FOR HIS EXPERIMENT, AND KATRINKA COULDN'T STAND THAT! SHE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM AND SNATCHED THEM UP...

AND THE TINY SPIDER AND THE COCKROACH, IN THEIR FRANTIC SCURRY FOR FREEDOM, RUSHED THRU THE SPILLED MIXTURES...

QUICKER THAN A WINK OF BRUNO'S EYE, THE COCKROACH AND THE SPIDER SPROUTED TO THE SIZE OF ELEPHANTS, AND BRUNO WAS CHOKED UP WITH SHOCK AND FEAR...

KATRINKA WATCHED THRU THE KEYHOLE AND SAW THE TWO GIANTS MOVE TOWARD HER HUSBAND WITH THEIR UGLY MOUTH'S SNAPPING...

AND SHE SAW BRUNO SNATCH AN AX IN DESPERATION AND HACK AWAY AT THE SPIDER...

BUT AS BRUNO RAISED HIS AX, HE STRUCK A BOTTLE ON THE SHELF BEHIND HIM AND THE LIQUID DRENCHED HIM...

AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE COCKROACH APPEARED A HUNDRED TIMES *LARGER* THAN BRUNO...

KATRINKA HEARD THE SCREAM AND THE CRASH WHICH FOLLOWED! AND WHEN SHE WENT INTO THE ROOM, THE COCKROACH WAS GONE AND BRUNO'S CRUSHED BODY LAY ON THE FLOOR...

AND SUDDENLY KATRINKA HAS STOPPED REMEMBERING, FOR HER THOUGHTS HAVE BROUGHT HER TO THE PRESENT, AND SHE LOWERS THE TINY COFFIN INTO THE TINY GRAVE...

TEARS ROLL DOWN HER CHEEKS AS SHE WALKS AWAY...

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

...CONTINUED

"I wonder sometimes why I do things like that to the poor girl," Carla thought as she began to dress. "Oh, well . . . it must be this nasty weather . . . or the beastly headache I've got."

She was dialing a number soon after breakfast. When she heard Dr. Jenson's voice on the other end, she said, "Good morning . . . I have news for you. I'm off . . . off for Lacia . . . the little town where the legend of Sira is supposed to have originated. I thought about it all night, and I've already made plane reservations. I arrive in Rome tomorrow night. What? WHAT? Why, don't you dare say I'm a lunatic . . . I . . . WELL! Carla slammed down the receiver.

After a moment, she said silently, "My temper . . . or my headache again . . . flaring up. Oh, I wish that I could control my terrible temper sometimes. Often I think I possess evil spirits MYSELF," she laughed.

On the plane going over the Atlantic, Carla didn't want to talk to anyone. Instead she studied a book which contained resumes of the notes taken by others who had previously attempted to find the truth about Sira, and who had failed. She studied them until the headache became only a dull, almost constant part of her existence. And then Rome was below her.

She passed through all sorts of cities . . . rich ones, slum sections, asking information wherever and whenever the occasion arose. And then she was in the small, remote town of Lacia. She stepped out of her little car, and walked through the narrow streets, up stone staircases, down dirt roads, winding about the town. The house, the house in which Sira had once lived, stood before just at the far edge of Lacia.

It was unoccupied, of course, for it all but fell apart. It had a strange smell, and it made Carla's head pound even harder. But she disregarded the pain, and searched throughout the little house.

Only about an hour had passed when she found the book beside the door that led to an upstairs room. A diary, written by Rico Geraldi, the husband of the woman of the legend.

"Strange . . . that it should be so easily found by me . . . when others have searched for years in the same town, the same house . . . and now it is in MY hands . . ." Carla thought, turning the pages that were worn thin and browned with age.

She disregarded her aching head as the story of Sira and Rico unfolded before her very eyes.

And then she saw it . . . the words that made her hold her head, blink her eyes in disbelief . . . the words Rico had written just prior to his death.

". . . tonight . . . yes, I know she will try to kill me tonight. Sira, with her foul temper and greedy mind, will try to kill me . . . so that she will be left with all my money. But if she should succeed, she will bear a curse for all eternity . . . my curse. Should Sira kill me, my mark will be upon her head. I have the power to make her go on living . . . until she will beg to die. Her spirit will be transplanted and re-transplanted into newborn lives, and go on and on and on and there will be no end. Until one person who discovers the truth about herself, Sira will live on. But when THAT happens, and only then, Sira will die."

Carla's head felt like a thousand drums were beating inside. She clutched at her heart, and the book slipped from her hands. She fell to the floor and gasped.

". . . until that person . . . discovers the . . . t-truth . . . Sira w-will live . . . but then . . . and only t-then, will s-she die . . ." Carla whispered as she felt life slipping away.

The bruise! Carla painfully brought her hand up to her eye, and felt the blue mark. The legend had gone that Rico had struck Sira just before he died.

And as the blackness enveloped Carla, she remembered the words in the old diary . . . "and she shall bear my mark upon her head!"

Then the pounding was silenced forever.

THE END

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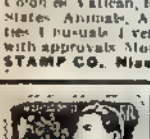

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BOTTLED UP!

I'M AN OLD SEA-DOG AN' I'VE HEAVED-TO IN MANY STRANGE PORTS, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A SADDER OR SORRIER SIGHT THAN BENNY! I FIRST SIGHTED BENNY AT THE CITY DUMP, AN' THAT'S WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN HIS LIFE WAS BOTTLES...YEP, JUST PLAIN, ORDINARY, EMPTY BOTTLES!

I WENT DOWN TO THE CITY DUMP THAT DAY TO FIND A COUPLE OF BOTTLES FOR THE LI'L SHIPS I BUILD INSIDE THEM...A SECRET I LEARNED IN JAVA...

HM-M! A NICE, NEAT STACK TO CHOOSE FROM ...AN' THIS ONE LOOKS JUST RIGHT!

I'M SORRY, MISTER! BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT BOTTLE! IT'S MINE! THEY'RE ALL MINE!

I LIKE BOTTLES! I SAVE THEM! I COME HERE EVERY DAY AND TAKE THEM HOME! I WASH THEM AND KEEP THEM! DO YOU LIKE BOTTLES TOO?

AYE! I LIKE TO HAVE 'EM FOR...

THE REST OF MY WORDS WERE DROWNED IN A STORM OF SHOUTIN' VOICES...

HEY, LOOK, FELLAS! THERE'S BENNY THE BOTTLE COLLECTOR! LET'S SMASH HIS PILE AND MAKE HIM BAWL!

'BYE-'BYE BOTTLES, BENNY!

NO! PLEASE DON'T! DON'T BREAK MY BOTTLES!

HA! LOOKIT BENNY BAWL! HE DOESN'T HOLLER LIKE THAT EVEN WHEN WE'RE SLUGGIN' HIM!

A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!

Pete Tumbleson

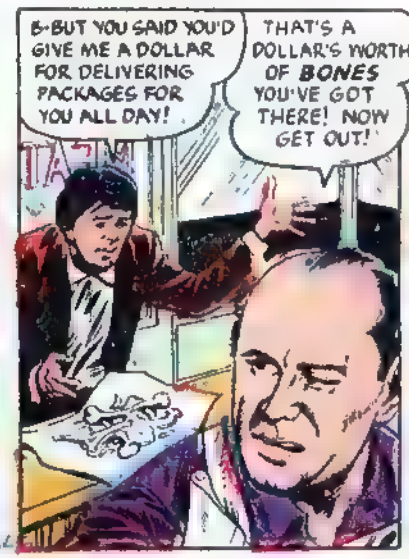
E 677

LOOK, BENNY! I BROKE THE NECK OFFA THIS ONE! DON'T YOU FEEL REAL SORRY FOR IT? HA!
OH-H, MY BOTTLES! (SOB!) MY POOR BROKEN BOTTLES!
I WAS FLABBER-GASTED! BENNY CRIED AND SOBBED THE WAY FOLKS DO WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES! AND I FELT SO SORRY FOR THE LAD, I SIGNED UP ON HIS SIDE WITH MY SHIL-LELAGH..
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU BLASTED POOLROOM PIRATES! HAUL SAIL AND BLOW!
OH-H!
AFTER THE HOODLUMS LEFT, BENNY STOOD THERE LOOKIN' DOWN AT THE BROKEN BOTTLES, NOT SAYIN' A WORD ... JUST CRYIN'...
I'M SORRY, MATE!
THEY DIDN'T BREAK THIS ONE! I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT!
THANKS, BENNY! I PROMISE I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
I KNOW YOU WILL! BUT PLEASE TELL ME SOMETHING... AM I REALLY SO DIFFERENT BECAUSE I LIKE BOTTLES?
OF COURSE NOT! SOME PEOPLE COLLECT STAMPS ...SOME SAVE STRING! AN' FOR THE SAME REASON, YOU COLLECT BOTTLES.. BECAUSE YOU LIKE THEM!
HERE'S MY PLACE, BENNY! I HAVE A HOBBY, TOO! COME ON IN AN' I'LL SHOW YOU!
GEE! LI'L SHIPS IN BOTTLES! HOW DO YOU GET THEM IN THERE, CAP'N?
SORRY, BENNY! I CAN'T TELL YOU! IT'S A SECRET!

KNOWING THAT ME AN' OTHER PEOPLE COLLECTED THINGS AN' HAD HOBBIES MADE BENNY FEEL A LOT BETTER, AN' HE WENT ON COLLECTIN' BOTTLES...

BUT BENNY HAD HIS TROUBLES! FOLKS PICKED ON HIM, MEBBE 'CAUSE HE WAS SO SMALL AN' PUNY! THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLY ALWAYS SHOVED HIM AROUND...

THE GROCER AND THE BUTCHER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIM...


B-BUT YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE ME A DOLLAR FOR DELIVERING PACKAGES FOR YOU ALL DAY!
THAT'S A DOLLAR'S WORTH OF BONES YOU'VE GOT THERE! NOW GET OUT!

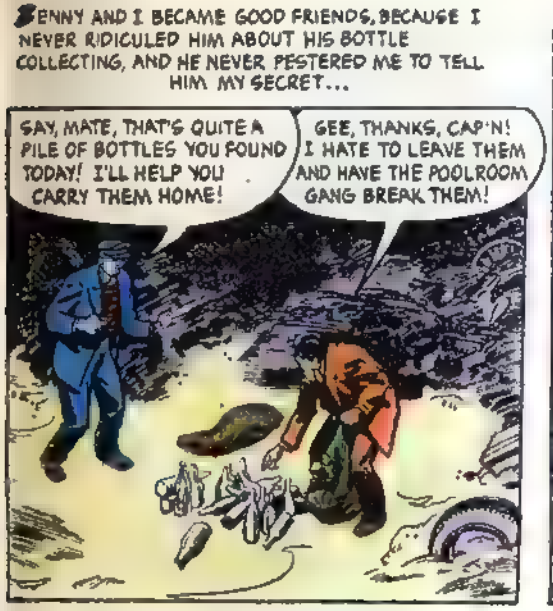
AGATHA PRESCOTT, THE CRABBY OL' WIDOW, WAS ALWAYS COMPLAININ' AN' TRYIN' TO GET BENNY INTO TROUBLE...

BUT HE ISN'T HARMING ANYONE, MRS. PRESCOTT!
I DON'T CARE! HE SHOULD BE ARRESTED! HE'S NOT FIT TO BE OUT ON THE STREET WITH DECENT PEOPLE!

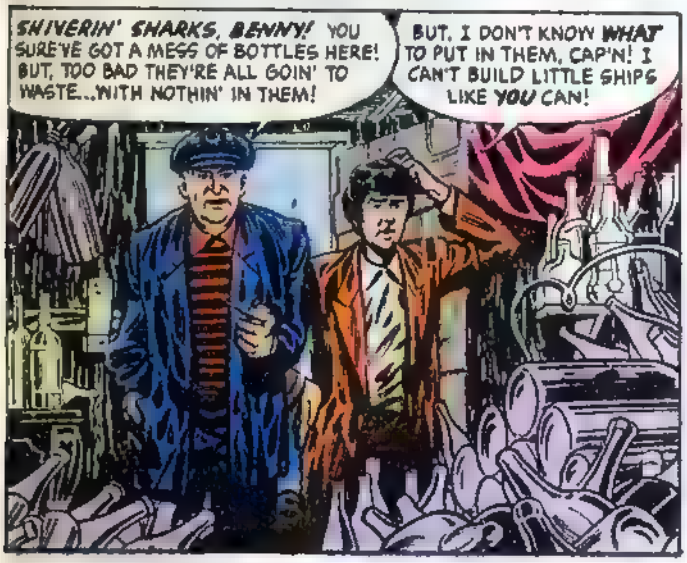
AND THE POOLROOM PIRATES WERE ALWAYS MAKING LIFE MISERABLE FOR POOR BENNY...

I GUESS I WAS THE ONLY REAL FRIEND BENNY HAD, AN' HE CAME OVER A LOT TO WATCH ME WORK! HIS SAD EYES WOULD SPARKLE WITH WONDERMENT AS HE STARED AT THE LITTLE SHIPS I'D BUILT AND PUT INTO BOTTLES...

BENNY AND I BECAME GOOD FRIENDS, BECAUSE I NEVER RIDICULED HIM ABOUT HIS BOTTLE COLLECTING, AND HE NEVER PESTERED ME TO TELL HIM MY SECRET...


SAY, MATE, THAT'S QUITE A PILE OF BOTTLES YOU FOUND TODAY! I'LL HELP YOU CARRY THEM HOME!
GEE, THANKS, CAP'N! I HATE TO LEAVE THEM AND HAVE THE POOLROOM GANG BREAK THEM!

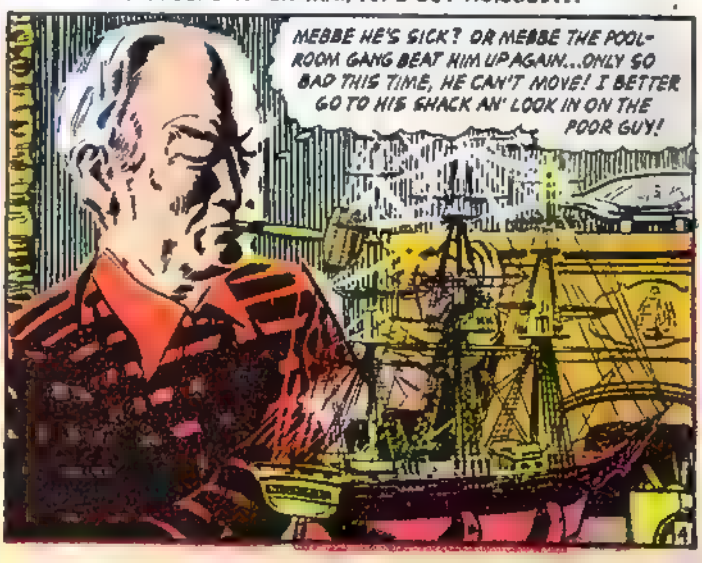
THAT WAS IT, ALL RIGHT...AND THE INSIDE WAS JAMMED WITH BOTTLES OF ALL KINDS, LIKE THE HOLD OF A SHIP WITH A PAY LOAD...


SHIVERIN' SHARKS, BENNY! YOU SURE'VE GOT A MESS OF BOTTLES HERE! BUT, TOO BAD THEY'RE ALL GOIN' TO WASTE...WITH NOTHIN' IN THEM!
BUT, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO PUT IN THEM, CAP'N! I CAN'T BUILD LITTLE SHIPS LIKE *YOU* CAN!

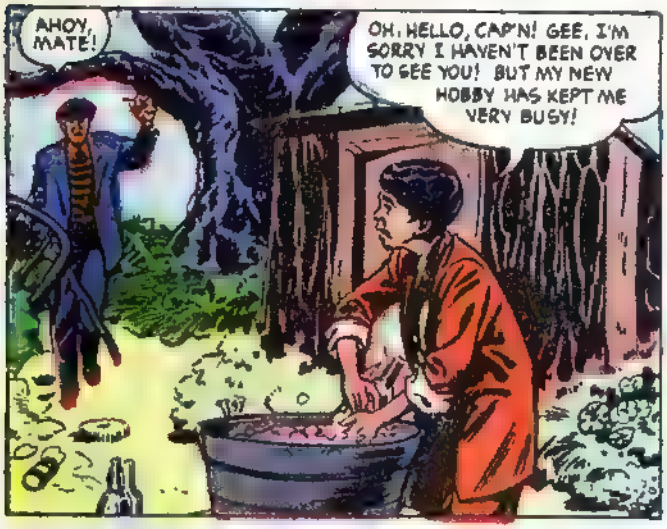
I KNOW, MATE! BUT PEOPLE PUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS THEY LIKE IN BOTTLES! SOME SAVE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SAND...OR STONES... OR FISH!
REALLY?

SURE! AND OTHERS BOTTLE UP THINGS THEY *DON'T* LIKE, SUCH AS BUGS, SPIDERS AND SNAKES!
GEE, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT! BUT I *WOULD* LIKE TO PUT SOMETHING IN MY BOTTLES THE WAY *YOU* DO IN *YOURS!* AND I WILL...I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

I WAS GLAD I GOT HIM INTERESTED IN ANOTHER HOBBY, AN' I WONDERED FOR A WEEK WHAT IT WOULD BE! BUT BENNY DIDN'T COME AROUND AFTER THAT, AN' I GOT WORRIED...


MEBBE HE'S SICK? OR MEBBE THE POOLROOM GANG BEAT HIM UP AGAIN...ONLY SO BAD THIS TIME, HE CAN'T MOVE! I BETTER GO TO HIS SHACK AN' LOOK IN ON THE POOR GUY!

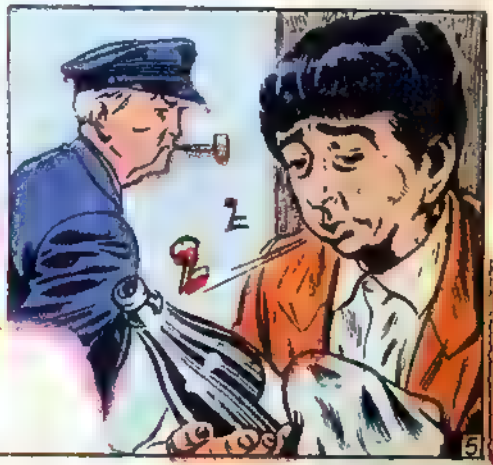
BUT WHEN I GOT TO BENNY'S SHACK, I NEVER SAW HIM LOOKIN' MORE SHIPSHAPE! HE WAS WASHIN' AN' POLISHIN HIS BOTTLES, AN' SINGIN' LIKE A SEAMAN WITH A BELLYFUL OF WINE...



BLISTERIN' BARNACLES! I'VE SAILED THE SEVEN SEAS AN' I'VE SET MY EYES ON THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD, BUT I AIN'T NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' LIKE THIS!

THERE, LINED UP NEATLY ON THE SHELVES, WERE SOME OF BENNY'S BOTTLES... AND INSIDE WERE THE BUTCHER, THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLY, THE CRABBY WIDOW, AND ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THE POOLROOM GANG...ALL BOTTLED UP!

I SURE WANTED TO KNOW HOW BENNY DID IT, BUT BENNY NEVER PESTERED ME ABOUT MY SECRET, SO I WASN'T GOING TO PESTER HIM ABOUT HIS! I SAID GOOD-BYE TO HIM AND WALKED OFF TO GET BACK TO PUTTING SHIPS IN MY BOTTLES.. AND LEFT BENNY TO HIS HOBBY!



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The Insult That Turned a "CHUMP" Into a CHAMP

LOOK, JOE, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT RING, TOO
AW, COME ON LET'S SEE THE REST OF THE "FAIR"!
HEY, SUGAR. WHY DON'T YOU QUIT THAT HUMAN SKELETON AND GET A REAL MAN!
SEE HERE, YOU BETTER SHUT UP OR I'LL---
YOU'LL WHAT— YOU POOR CHUMP
OH, JOE, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GROW UP AND BE A MAN!
DOGGONE! I'M FED UP WITH BEING A WEAKLING—I'LL GET CHARLES ATLAS'S FREE BOOK AND FIND OUT WHAT HE CAN DO FOR ME!
GOLLY, ATLAS BUILDS MUSCLES FAST! JUST WATCH MY SMOKE NOW!
LATER
ONE HAND IS AS GOOD AS TWO WHEN YOU'RE AN ATLAS CHAMP
THERE GOES THE BELL— JOE, YOU'RE WONDERFUL
OUT OF THE WAY SMALL-FRY, MAKE WAY FOR A MAN!
O-OH, JOE, YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT—YOU'RE A HE-MAN NOW!

Charles Atlas

—actual photo of the man who holds the title, "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

I Can Make YOU a New Man, Too in Only 15 Minutes a Day!

HAVE YOU ever felt like Joe—absolutely fed up with having bigger, huskier fellows "push you around"? If you have, then give me just 15 minutes a day! I'LL PROVE you can have a body you'll be proud of, packed with red-blooded vitality!

"Dynamic Tension." That's the secret! That's how I changed myself from a scrawny, 97-pound weakling to winner of the title, "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

"Dynamic Tension" Does It!

Using *"Dynamic Tension"* only 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own room, you quickly begin to put on muscle, increase your chest size, broaden your back, fill out your arms and legs. This easy, NATURAL method will make you a finer specimen of REAL MANHOOD than you ever dreamed you could be!

You Get Results FAST

Almost before you realize it, you will notice a general "toning up" of your entire system! You will have more pep, bright eyes, clear head, real spring and zip in your step! You get sledge-hammer fists, a battering ram punch—chest and back muscles so big they almost split your coat seams—ridges of solid stomach muscle—mighty legs that never get tired You're a New Man!

FREE... My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Not $1.00 or 10¢ — But FREE

Send NOW for my famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." 32 pages, packed with photographs, valuable advice. Shows what *Dynamic Tension* can do; answers vital questions. Book is a real prize for any fellow who wants a better build. Yet I'll send you a copy absolutely FREE. It may change your whole life. Rush coupon to me personally: **CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60K, 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.**

CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60K
115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

Send me—absolutely FREE—a copy of your famous book, *"Everlasting Health and Strength"*—32 pages, crammed with actual photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. This book is mine to keep, and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

*Name*_____ *Age*_____
(Please print or write plainly)

*Address*_____

*City*_____ *Zone No. (if any)*_____ *State*_____

☐ *If under 16 years of age check here for Booklet A.*

AMAZING NEW WAY TO A SLIMMER FIGURE

REDUCE WITH *DELICIOUS* KELPIDINE CANDY PLAN!

"WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LOSE UP TO
5 POUNDS IN 5 DAYS*
10 POUNDS IN 10 DAYS*
15 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS*
25 POUNDS IN 25 DAYS*
AND KEEP IT OFF"**

*How Fast You Lose Weight Depends Upon How Quickly You Order and How Much You Are Overweight

**You Will Always Want to Keep on Eating Kelpidine Candy—and Keep on the Plan—It KEEPS Weight Off!

THIS CANDY MUST TASTE AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN YOUR FAVORITE CANDY OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

Now at last science has discovered a new delightfully thrilling way to take off fat—to lose up to 25 lbs. safely! The secret is that Kelpidine Candy satisfies your craving for high calorie foods! It keeps you from overeating—the reason most doctors give for being fat! It's the best aid to will power, cuts your craving for foods!

NO DANGEROUS DRUGS! NO HARDSHIP DIETS!

Here is thrilling news for fat folks! You can lose up to 25 lbs. in 25 days by simply nibbling on tasty appetite satisfying candy, whenever you are tempted to overeat.

YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU DON'T REDUCE TO THE WEIGHT THAT MOST BECOMES YOU!

Thousands of people were amazed to find that this delicious candy plan actually takes off weight—without dangerous drugs, starvation diet, or hard-to-follow methods. Here's one way to reduce that you will want to continue with to keep off fat! The Kelpidine Candy Plan helps you curb your appetite for fattening foods, helps keep you from overeating. Now you reach for a delicious sweet candy instead of fattening foods—it kills the overpowering urge to overeat—to eat between meal-snacks. Your craving for rich, fattening foods is satisfied with this candy plan. Almost like magic you begin to enjoy this plan for reducing.

SENSATIONAL TWO-WAY GUARANTEE!

This sweet delicious Kelpidine Candy plan is guaranteed (1) to take off up to 10 pounds of excess weight in 10 days. (2) to taste better or as good as your favorite candy and to be the best plan you ever followed or you get your money back.

SCIENTIFICALLY AND CLINICALLY TESTED!

That amazing ingredient in Kelpidine candy is the most remarkable discovery for fat people ever made. It's been tested by doctors in test-after-test. The results were far better than doctors ever hoped for! The results were reported in medical journals throughout the world! Doctors are invited to write for details.

HERE'S HOW TO REDUCE AND STAY SLIM!

Most people are fat because of overeating—too much high calorie fattening foods—to your amazement you will want to keep on eating this delicious candy even after you have reduced to the weight that most becomes you and you'll keep your weight off that way!

AMAZING DISCOVERY OF SCIENCE!

The Kelpidine Candy plan is the result of scientific research for years for a new discovery for something that will stop your craving for fattening food and also satisfy your appetite. This delicious candy does not turn into ugly fat, it gives you the same feeling of fullness you have after you have eaten a satisfying meal. It kills your desire to overeat—it kills your craving for bedtime snacks and for in-between meal snacks. It's so safe even a child can take it without bad effects. **With Kelpidine Candy all you taste* is its deliciousness—you can't tell the difference!**

IT'S UNHEALTHY TO BE FAT!

Insurance companies and doctors tell everyone that too much fat shortens your life! Fat people die years sooner than people with normal weight! So be Safe! Be Fair to yourself! Start taking off ugly fat with delicious tasting Kelpidine Candy plan!

KELPIDINE CANDY IS DIFFERENT!

The amazing clinical tested and proven reducing substance contained in Kelpidine Candy is prescribed by many doctors—Don't be misled by imitation products—Kelpidine Candy is the result of scientific research and is the last word in Reducing.

DON'T CUT OUT FOODS** CUT DOWN ON CALORIES!

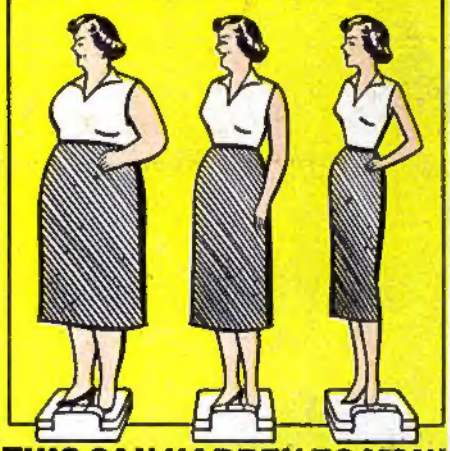
You never starve, you always feel full with Kelpidine Candy plan—You'll never suffer hunger pangs—Your desire for high calorie fattening foods is always satisfied! With Kelpidine Candy Plan you eat the same quantity of foods—you merely cut down on the high calorie rich foods with the help of Kelpidine Candy. You eat as much as you want, your calorie intake will be less—That's the delightful amazing thing!

YOU GET A LIBERAL SUPPLY OF CANDY!

Try the liberal supply of Kelpidine Candy Plan on our 10-day no risk offer. Keep a record of your weight—if you are not pleased with your loss of weight, if you can taste any difference between this candy and your favorite candy—return for refund. Just fill out coupon and mail to AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS CO., Dept. K-57 Candy Division, 318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

You must be entirely satisfied with your loss of weight—This candy must taste as good as or better than your favorite candy—You must get rid of dangerous excess fat or your money will be refunded—Don't delay—You have nothing to lose but excess weight so mail coupon below now!



THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!

WITH THIS DELICIOUS REDUCING CANDY PLAN!

Let this delicious candy plan help you control your desire for fattening food! Let it help you put a stop to the habit of overeating—A habit that's so hard to break! Kelpidine candy contains that new discovery many doctors prescribe to help curb your desire to overeat (the main cause of overweight).

$1.00 TRIAL SAMPLE SIZE!

CUT OUT AND MAIL—NO RISK COUPON NOW!

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS COMPANY, Dept. K-57
Candy Division,
318 Market Street, Newark, New Jersey

☐ I enclose $1.00, send trial sample size, postage pre-paid!

☐ Rush a *Liberal Supply* of Kelpidine Candy plan. I enclose $3.00, send postage pre-paid. (I save up to 75c postage by sending payment with order!)

☐ Rush a *Large Economy Supply* of Kelpidine Candy. I enclose $5.00, send postage pre-paid. (I save up to 90c postage by sending payment with order.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ Sent on Approval